Designing the Evaluation (Research Plan)

Research Design

The quantitative research designs this writer will use for the program evaluation is the formative design. According to Smith "process evaluations and program-monitoring studies provide useful information about program implementation to determine if the program is operational and if there are any bottlenecks in the program and if the program is being implemented as planned" (Smith, 2010, p. 250). The formative design can possibly provide data that will help the shelter staff determine if the trainings and programs that are being provided has any effect on clients obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The data that will be collected is quantitative. Keeping records of how many trainings and programs the clients are attending and following up with their input after each training or program.

The threats to the internal validity this writer have considered for this evaluation process are "program attrition or experimental mortality" and "outside events or history" (Smith p. 262). Smith points out that "A pervasive characteristic of most programs is that people drop out or do not complete the program for a variety of reasons." Many clients leave the shelter before they find permanent housing sometimes for noncompliance or they will find someone who will allow them to crash at their place, instead of completing the process and getting into their own permanent housing. Smith also points out "In formative evaluation describing who dropped out and why they dropped out can tell you a lot about program processes." (Smith, 2010, p. 263). Outside events or history these events could have caused the clients outcomes as much as the program does according to Smith. The family shelters are for clients who are homeless and have no other resources. Many families enter the shelter system due to domestic violence within their intimate partner relationship. Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly

women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence. Victims of abuse may have low self-esteem and often find themselves trapped in repeating cycles of violence. Often times once they're not angry anymore, they decide to go home and try to work things out with their abuser. Smith points out that programs evaluation needs to be sensitized to events outside the program that can help or hinder the program in achieving its objectives. (Smith, 2010, p. 263). Helping to improve clients sense of self-worth and self-esteem can assist clients with empowerment and the ability to gain autonomy. Unfortunately, many clients return home to their abusers with their children.

Data Collection Procedures

The data collection procedure that would be used by this writer is a questionnaire. This measure consists of 14 items assessing feelings of self-worth, asking participants "how well each statement characterizes how you feel about yourself right now." (Critcher & Dunning, 2015). The advantage to using a questionnaire according to Smith is its inexpensive to administer and involves just copying and handing it out. One of the disadvantages is "questionnaires cannot be used for qualitative research when thick, rich descriptions of peoples' experiences in the program are needed." (Smith, p. 270).

The other form of data collection this writer decided to use is use of secondary data. The program data such as the monthly treatment plan can follow along with the services offered and provided to the client and what the client attended and how many times. We can also measure some of the clients progress. The advantage according to Smith is secondary data is referred to as "available data." This type of data has great appeal because no funds are needed to collect, the data and the only cost may be for data analysis" (Smith 2010, p. 274). One of the disadvantages are problems with reliability of case records is a limitation of secondary data, such

as: case records and paperwork may not be the most important priority of health and human-services professionals noted by Smith. (p. 274).

Data Collection Instrument (Measurement)

The measurement tool this writer will use to collect data is the Feelings of Self-Worth Measure. Critcher & Dunning (2015), developed The Feelings of Self-Worth Measure as a study that presented an "affirmation as perspective" model of how self-affirmations alleviate threat and defensiveness, for adults 18 years old and older. It is 14 items assessing feelings of self-worth, asking each client "how well each statement characterizes how you feel about yourself right now." It consists of items assessing both positive and negative feelings rated on a 9-poing likert scale. (Critcher & Dunning 2015).   The internal consistency: Alpha reliability was .92 for the positive feelings of self-worth factor and .91 for the negative feelings of self-worth factor.

Sampling Plan

The non-probability samples which is also known as the convenience sample is the type of sample plan this writer believes is the best fit for this evaluation plan.   According to Smith. (2010), the convenience sample can be useful in formative evaluations in which some initial feedback from people attending the program is sought. As clients attend the group sessions on self-worth and self-esteem, staff will provide an evaluation on how satisfied they were with the trainings that were provided. According to Smith (2010) if we would like to get a better sample, which is considered a purposive sample the sample could be selected on the basis of some criteria. This writer could sample clients who stopped attending the sessions to find out why they stopped attending the sessions. Perhaps there are areas in the trainings that needs adjusting and improvements in order to retain client participation.

Reference

Smith, Michael J. (2010) Handbook of program Evaluation for Social Work and Health
Professionals. Oxford University Press New York.

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record]. Retrieved from
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